Olympia became the state capital when Washington gained statehood in 1889. Aside from government, the city's primary economy has been based on timber, oystering, sawmilling, food canning and other related concerns. It also served as a shipping port for materials produced locally. Since the 1960s, Olympia has lost much of its waterfront industrial business, including the lumber and plywood mills, shipbuilding and power pole manufacturing, and the waterfront has undergone a gradual process of gentrification.

Lacey is a suburb of Olympia and to some extent Tacoma, consolidated from the settlements of Woodland and Chambers in the 1950s, and incorporated in 1966.

Amtrak provides neither ticketing or baggage services at this facility.

Olympia-Lacey is served by 10 daily trains.. The *Amtrak Cascades* are primarily financed through funds made available by the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Oregon Department of Transportation.